May-June-July 2003

Correctional Signport



MSP's Linda Moodry honored for her commitment to victims of crime

Montana State Prison Victim & Public Information Officer Linda Moodry recently became the first state employee to receive the Outstanding Crime Victim Advocate award from the Montana Attorney General's Office.

During an emotional surprise ceremony April 22 at MSP, Moodry said helping crime victims is the best part of her job. Those who work with Moodry know she's good at it.

"Long after the initial courtroom proceedings are over, victims and their families still worry about the offenders, but, fortunately, Linda is here to take their calls," Attorney General Mike McGrath remarked before bestowing the 2003 award on Moodry. "It is an invaluable service, especially when it is pro-



Linda Moodry

vided with the kindness and competence Linda brings to her work."

Moodry was appointed victim and public information officer at the prison in 1995, but she had worked at MSP in various capacities for more than a decade before then. She continues to oversee the Interstate Compact program.

When the Department of Corrections implemented the VINE automatic notification system for victims in 1997, Moodry contacted all county and city attorney's offices, law enforcement agencies, victim/witness programs, domestic violence shelters, and rape crisis centers to inform them. She also ensures

More AWARD, page 3

Ron Alsbury new P&P Bureau Chief

Ron Alsbury, a 27-year veteran of the state corrections system, is the new chief of the Probation and Parole Bureau, effective June 30. The position at DOC's central office in Helena has been vacant since Mary Fay retired last December.

"The ageless challenge in this field is to improve recovery efforts for our addictive and criminal thinking offenders, and their family members," Alsbury told the *Signpost*. "My main goals are to keep my staff safe and to strengthen families in Montana, because this seems to be our only way out of the skyrocketing number of Montana citizens involved in the criminal justice system."

Alsbury started his career in 1976 as a probation and parole officer. In 1990, he was promoted to administrator of Region II, which has headquarters in Helena and also encompasses Bozeman, Livingston, Butte, Anaconda and Dillon. The Probation and Parole Bureau has nearly 200 employees in six regions, and oversees 23 field offices across Montana. The bureau supervises about 7,000 adult felony

More BUREAU CHIEF, page 2

"Going Home" grant to help juveniles reenter communities The Juvenile Division recently learned that it will receive \$666,000 for each of the next three years in federal "Going Home" funds to provide enhanced services for juvenile offenders returning from correctional facilities to communities. Services include housing, life skills, education, employment, counseling, mentoring and others.

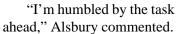
Juvenile Corrections Division Administrator Steve Gibson couldn't be more pleased. "A special thanks to Nancy Knight, Karen Duncan and Julie Buchman," he said. "Without their hard work and dedication, attainment of this grant would not have been possible."

Federal agencies providing funding

More GRANT on page 2

BUREAU CHIEF, from page 1

offenders who are in a variety of community-based alternatives to prison. Included are felons who received deferred or suspended sentences by the courts, those who were granted parole from prison, and those whom the DOC director approved for conditional release.





Ron Alsbury

"However, I'm excited by the chance to work with our P&P staff on a local and regional level. They are experienced and competent in their communities. They make the

company run. I need to support them, gain information from them, and NOT make their job more difficult."

The Probation and Parole Bureau is one component of DOC's Community Corrections Division. "We are extremely fortunate to have Ron leading the Probation and Parole Bureau with his nearly three decades of experience," said Division Administrator Mike Ferriter. "Ron is highly respected by staff of the Community Corrections Division, as well as many members of the criminal justice system."

Alsbury concluded: "I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve as the chief, and thankful for the good examples in my life that have influenced me both in and outside my work. I promise to do my best to maintain competent staff, help them feel the value of their efforts, and appreciate them for their contribution and innovation."

GRANT, from page 1

and otherwise supporting this national initiative include the U.S. Departments of Commerce, Education, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Labor and Veterans Affairs; the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; and the Social Security Administration.

Montana's plan includes "Guide Home" foster placements for youth who are not able to return to their parents' homes, Gibson said. These homes are administered by Missoula Youth Homes and will, as the project progresses, be available in many locations throughout Montana. "The foster parents are being trained specifically to deal with a population whose needs are not met in traditional foster care," Gibson explained. "The homes specified as Guide Homes will house only Corrections clients. Through this aspect of the program, youth will access counseling services in the community."

The Guide Homes will have mentors available as needed for specific purposes including guiding a youth needing physical activity enhancement, academic assistance, vocational guidance and other needs as identified.

The Correctional Signport

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Mountain Peaks will administer another mentoring option for youth not placed in Guide Homes but needing mentors for guidance and assistance, especially in sparsely populated areas of the state. Mountain Peaks will also offer victim/offender mediation services if requested by victims. Life skills, education and employment opportunities will be enhanced through this program.

In keeping with the national direction, a faith-based component is included in the project, according to Gibson. It addresses spiritual concerns (as voluntarily requested by youth) and medical expertise by involving parish nurses in community reentry teams.

An aftercare coordinator from one of the two state youth correctional facilities will work with caseworkers, juvenile parole officers and a variety of individuals in the respective communities to form community teams whose support will allow youth a greater chance of success, Gibson said. "These community teams will include family members in most cases and individuals with expertise in the areas of need identified for the clients."

Gibson said that family members and providers will have opportunities to visit the correctional facilities to work with staff and offenders so that they will better understand the treatment program and be more well prepared for the youth returning to the community. "Responsibilities will shift to offenders and family as the youth progresses, with access to services and linkages to the community becoming stronger," Gibson said.

The overall intent of the program, Gibson concluded, is to reduce recidivism by enhancing opportunities, strengthening community programming and involving all stakeholders mentioned before, directing services and resources to the youth and community.

AWARD, from page 1

MSP compliance with a law requiring that victims be notified of changes in offenders' custody status.

When DOC initiated its conditional release program in 2002, Moodry reviewed the files of all candidates for early release and sought input from their victims. The information she relayed to DOC Director Bill Slaughter and MSP Warden Mike Mahoney helped them make release decisions.

Moodry is MSP's representative on the DOC Crime Victims Advisory Council. She listens to the concerns of victims and recommends changes in systems and policies that produce better working relationships between victims and MSP. She has provided training in victim issues for correctional officers and other MSP employees, victim witness advocates at the Montana Law Enforcement Academy, and the Montana County Attorneys Association.

Others who received the 2003 awards from the AG's Office of Victim Services and Restorative Justice are Ed Krasinski, Jefferson County Victim Witness Advocate and a Crime Victims Advisory Council member; Bertha Croghan of the YMCA & First Step Missoula; and Tina Hedin, a registered nurse with SANE, a program at Deaconess Clinic in Billings in which nurses collect evidence to aid prosecution of sex offenders.



A Message from the Director

Bill Slaughter

Summertime, and the living is easy . . . but let's keep an eye out for rain clouds

Summer is here, the legislature is gone, a new budget cycle starts in July —

life is good. As we all look forward to the challenges of a new fiscal year, we see some real bright spots.

Because of a lot of hard work on the part of DOC managers and administrators, and the great examples set by staff the last year, we will be dealing with a budget within \$1.6 million of what was asked for.

This means we can accommodate the expected growth in the prison system for the next two years.

We will be reinstating treatment programs in the regional prisons. We will put chemical dependency and employment counselors back into some of our major probation and parole offices. We also expect to be able to retain our staffing capabilities in the secure care and Community Corrections service areas.

All this good news comes with some foreseeable challenges however. At the risk of squatting on my spurs a little, we know the budget is going to be tight even if well managed. As we see how the MASC Program in Missoula is working and more offenders shift from secure care to Community Corrections, the more probation and parole caseloads could rise. Division Administrator Mike Ferriter has a plan to deal with this as we see this situation play out.

In our Juvenile Services Division, we are maintaining high numbers in both Pine Hills and Riverside. Administrator Steve Gibson continues to use the "Guide Home" system of therapeutic foster care to move youth from secure care to community options. Youth services staff are all currently working hard toward ACA accreditation for the entire division.

Both MSP and MWP will face challenges in dealing with offenders who have health and mental health problems.

You may have seen in the news that DOC is now struggling with modifying behavior management plans, thanks to the Montana Supreme Court. But thanks to can-do professionals like Dr. David Schaefer at MSP. we are confident we can comply with the order to control our inmate population and provide for the safety of staff. It won't be easy but it will be doable.

Finally, I want to express my constant and yet growing respect for all the staff and correctional professionals at DOC, at the private prisons, and among our many great contractors. Special thanks to our fighting men and women who are currently on leave from Corrections to protect our country. We will keep you and your families in our prayers. You all truly are the best at what you do and Montana's best-kept secret.

Sometimes corrections employees are crime victims too!!!

VINE Victim Information and Notification Everyday

Confidential information 24/7 about the custody status of adult felony offenders in DOC custody. Registering takes only two minutes.

1-800-456-3076

A public service of the Montana Department of Corrections



Why the big smile?

Shane Bogard had his photo taken for a DOC visitor's badge during Take Your Kids to Work Day April 24. DOC Central Office celebrated with several special events, including a "share your feelings" session in the Correctional Practices Bureau, similar to what offenders participate in during treatment. Fifteen kids participated. Shane is Anita Pisarsky's nephew.



Veterans may qualify for honorary diplomas

by Jack Powers, Montana State Prison

Did you miss graduating from high school due to military service? You may be eligible to receive the Honorary High School Diploma, created by the 2003 Montana Legislature to honor those in our state who discontinued their high school education due to military service.

To be eligible, the veteran must be a current or former Montana resident who meets all of these requirements: (1) did not receive a high school diploma; (2) actively served in the United Stated armed services during World War II from 1939 through 1947, the Korean War from 1950 through 1953, or the Vietnam War from 1961 through 1975; and (2) was honorably discharged or released from active duty because of a service-related disability.

Family members of qualified deceased veterans may apply for posthumous recognition.

For more information, write to Debbie Carey at the Montana Office of Public Instruction, Honorary High School Diploma, P.O. Box 202501, Helena, MT 59620-2501.

Corrections health care professionals discuss new MPHA section

Corrections health care professionals will meet during the Montana Public Health Association 2003 Annual Conference in September to discuss forming a professional section to address the unique situations they encounter while providing services to patients incarcerated in prisons, jails and other detention facilities.

MPHA is offering an educational tract designed especially for those involved in health care delivery to the incarcerated, as part of its September 16-18 conference at the Kalispell Westcoast Outlaw Hotel.

"The need exists for a forum in which correctional professionals from all aspects of the incarcerated spectrum can meet to discuss current issues, create a supportive network and advance the delivery of health care through continuing education," said Sharon K. Howard, president of MPHA

The annual MPHA conference offers expert national and state speakers on a broad spectrum of public health issues, and this year's agenda includes many Continuing Education topics of interest to correctional health care providers. "The opportunity to advance the relationship between corrections and public health will be beneficial to the overall health of the citizens of Montana," Howard said. "Awareness is growing at the national and state levels that correctional care and public health are intertwined and that formalizing cooperative links is important to the health of the whole community."

The conference theme is "Prepare and Mobilize: Public Health on the Front Lines." MPHA has reserved a block of rooms at the hotel, (406) 755-6864. For more information or to include your name on the mailing list, contact Jan Kiely at 452-9113 (e-mail: kukes17@attbi.com) or Sharon K. Howard at 761-2614 (lshoward@3rivers.net). DOC employees also can contact Julie Reardon in Central Office at (406) 444-9894 (jreardon@state.mt.us).

DOC Employees in the News

Dawn Handa to supervise sex offenders at Great Falls P&P

Dawn Handa, a Probation and Parole Officer for the Great Falls office has been selected Sex Offender Specialist. Her duties include supervising 40 to 45 Level I-III sex offenders. In addition, Handa was selected to be the Field Training Officer for Region III. She began her DOC career 5½ years ago as a Juvenile Parole Officer with the Great Falls office.

Dawn is married to the Deputy Jail Administrator at the Cascade County Regional Detention Center, Roger Handa.

Riverside honors Shawn Sonsteng, Bonnie Ritchie

Shawn Sonsteng, Living Unit Supervisor at Riverside Youth Correctional Facility in Boulder, was selected Employee of the Quarter for the 4th quarter of 2002, and Correctional Counselor Bonnie Ritchie received the honor for the first quarter of 2003.

Sonsteng came to Riverside in May of 1997 as a Correctional Counselor and was promoted to Shift Supervisor and then to his current position. He received the award for his willingness to fill in at moment's notice to provide the proper staffing coverage from October through December with a positive attitude and high work ethic.

"Shawn has consistently had a positive attitude at work. He is respectful to both the offenders and staff and uses his good sense of humor to bring light and laughter into the routine of the day," a staff member said. "As a supervisor, he keeps an open door policy and is very easy to talk to. I think most would agree that Shawn is a good listener."

Ritchie began working at Riverside as an aggregate in the Housing Unit in September of 2001, and then moved to a full-time Correctional Counselor

position in August 2002. She also works for the Butte School District. "The girls help me as much as I help them. I learn something new from them every day," she said. "I've had a good life and I've wanted the opportunity to give back. Each girl, no matter what her background is interesting and challenging. Everyone works as a team here. That's what makes everything work."

Ritchie was chosen for the award due to her balanced approach to resolving problems, communication skills, respectfulness, and positive attitude, which provide a great example for others to follow. She is ever mindful of safety and security concerns and works hard to maintain a pleasant and safe work environment.

MCE says good-bye to Steve Hartman, Charlie Davis

Longtime employees Steve Hartman and Charlie Davis are leaving Montana Correctional Enterprises for new opportunities out of state. Hartman began his career at the MCE dairy in 1981 and later became its director. He and his family have moved to Seattle. Davis, the upholstery shop supervisor, began work for MCE at Montana Women's Prison in 1991, and came to the upholstery shop when MWP moved to Billings. He is relocating to Kentucky.

Pine Hills' Larry Bjorndal receives retirement honors

Larry Bjorndal retired recently from 30 years of teaching English, GED and other subjects as needed at Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facility in Miles City. A fitting reflection of his efforts was in the special service award he received in Missoula April 3 from the Montana Council for Exceptional Children. He also received a certificate of outstanding achievement from the Department of Corrections.

Bjorndal is a native Montanan who graduated from high school in Willow Creek, near Three Forks, and earned a bachelor's degree from Western Montana College in Dillon. He has since earned numerous graduate credits from various colleges and universities.

Fellow Pine Hills educator Rick Klaboe wrote a tribute to Bjorndal for the Missoula ceremony, paraphrased here: "...Mr. Bjorndal changed our state, one life at a time, one day at a time, and one decision at a time. He waged a war on delinquency, ignorance and apathy to an extent that any 'normal person' could not. For the students no one wanted, Larry rolled up his shirt sleeves and changed the world..."

MSP honors Sandy Heaton for offender treatment work

Sandy Heaton, Specialized Treatment Unit Manager at Montana State Prison, was nominated recently for the statewide Excellence in Leadership Award 2003. Although she was not selected to receive the Montana Department of Labor and Industry award, the nomination honors her 29+ years of service at MSP.

The Interdepartmental Coordinating Committee for Women (ICCW) selected the winners and Gov. Judy Martz presented the awards May 15.

Associate Warden Leonard Mihelich points out in the nomination that Heaton deserves much of the credit for MSP's Cognitive Principles and Restructuring Treatment Program, which gives offenders a real opportunity to turn their lives around. Heaton is a clinician in the Sex Offender Program and a supervisor, leader and trainer in her fields of expertise – sociology, psychology, professional counseling and chemical dependency treatment.

More EMPLOYEES, page 6



Montana State Prison recently debuted a Wall of Honor to recognize those who have served in the military or are presently serving.

EMPLOYEES, from page 7

Heaton frequently presents workshops, seminars and training in every aspect of sex offender treatment and management, as well as suicide prevention, workplace sexual harassment prevention, stress management and more. "Her professionalism, competency, dedication and spirit of cooperation (is) unquestionable," Mihelich wrote. "She is truly an asset to Montana State Prison and DOC. She has performed her duties during difficult times, budget restraints, reorganization and growth."

Director Slaughter appoints crime victims to DOC council

DOC Director Bill Slaughter has appointed three volunteers to the Crime Victims Advisory Council, bringing the total number of voting members to 14.

Gordon Belcourt of Billings, executive director of the Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council, brings a tribal perspective to the Crime Victims Advisory Council. Gordon and his family are victims of violent crime.

Joyce Pallastro of Bozeman is a survivor of domestic violence who serves on the Board of Directors for the Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. AnnaMarie Linneweber of Livingston is executive director of the Tri-County Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. She is a survivor of partner abuse, including sexual assault and attempted homicide.

DOC appointed the first Crime Victims Advisory Council members in 1995 to give victims an active role in the Montana criminal justice system. The council helps the Department draft policy and legislation on topics of importance to victims. For more information about the Crime Victims Advisory Council, call Sally Hilander, DOC public/victim information specialist, at (406) 444-7461.

Riverside Superintendent McKenzie receives MSW

Cindy McKenzie, superintendent of Riverside Youth Correctional Facility in Boulder, received her Master of Social Work (MSW) degree from Walla Walla (Washington) College during a June 8 hooding ceremony in Missoula. She completed the academic requirements by working four 10-hour days at Riverside and commuting to the Missoula campus once a week for classes. McKenzie focused her studies on families and adolescents, and learned how family, political, governmental and mental health systems can interact to promote healthy communities. McKenzie has a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology and became Riverside superintendent in March 2002.

Correctional officers honored during May celebration at MSP

Sixty-two correctional staff received service pins in May during the annual Correctional Officer Week celebration at Montana State Prison.

Governor Martz praised the COs for their dedication in a changing and challenging correctional system in which "90 percent of all offenders you encounter will have some type of drug/alcohol problem or mental illness...you are not only responsible for an inmates

physical health but also their mental health."

Guests of honor were family members of Richard C. Wallace, who was killed in 1985 when an explosion demolished the main tower and part of the vacant new administration building at MSP. During the pin ceremony, the new administration building was dedicated to the Wallace family.

Service pins ranged from 5 years

to 25 years of service for Janet Cox, Records Supervisor and Darryl Bruner, Correctional Officer.

Warden Mike Mahoney also presented badges to MSP staff who retired in the past year and had requested that their badges be retired with them. Lt. Paul Chirico was among those who attended.

See page 7 for the complete list of those receiving service pins.

New Employees ____

Central Office

April 2003

Mahoney, Shannon Nelson, Jason

Montana State Prison

February 2003

Buckler, Brian Butori, Michael Chiddix, Nancy Cork, James Gazzara, David Micu, Kim Winslow, Wendy

April 2003

Black, James Craner, Kirk Cox, Jennifer Duarte, Jeralyn Garcia, Carols Kebschull, William Renville, Roger Salle, Richard Stephenson, James Truex, Karen Tymofichuk, Christopher

May 2003

Finlay, Myles Forrest, William

June 2003

Dill, Vertis Driver, Felix Griffin, Tracy Harrington, Trenton Hartwig, Jennifer James, Richard Salle, Tabitha

Montana Women's Prison

February 2003

Kirchmar, Gary

June 2003

Weber, William

Pine Hills YCF

March 2003

Schipman, Tracey

April 2003

Tauny, Bruce

Riverside YCF

April 2003

Copenhaver, Cheryl

Community Corrections

June 2003

Delappe, Jamie Monti, Sharon

Missoula Assessment and Sanction Center (MASC)

April 2003

Arneson, Clint

Probation & Parole Offices March 2003

Bessenyey, Kristina – Kalispell Harden, Laura – Billings Parrish, Paul – Kalispell

June 2003

Ostwalt, Heather - Havre

Treasure State Correctional Training Center (TSCTC)

April 2003

Jansen, Martin

MSP Service Pins awarded in May

25 YEARS

Robert Allen, Correctional Officer (CO) Darryl Brunner, CO Janet Cox, Records Supervisor

20 YEARS

Jerry Arneson, CO

Nick Cook, Case Manager Tom DeMarois, CO Fred Dobrinen, CO Sylvia Dubuisson, Records Art Garrison, Lieutenant Pat Huber, Recreation Lorelei Hughley, Classification Dean N. Nelson, CO John O'Neill, CO Thomas Paull, CO Richard Quinn, CO James Strong, CO Ross Swanson, MCE Manager

15 YEARS

Leroy Barry, CO

Don Berryman, Teacher

William Bloodgood, CO Ronald Collins, CO Dave Cozby, Maintenance Glen Davis, CO Allen Johns, Ranch Foreman Mike Kallas, CO Irl Lambertson, Case Manager Mike Mahoney, Warden John McNeal, Maintenance James Milligan, CO Tim Mueller, Recreation Spec. Rob Roe, CO-ISP Fred Saur, Sr., CO Joe Smith, Maintenance Wayne Ternes, DOC Training Joe Warner, CO

10 YEARS

John Bolton, Maintenance

5YEARS

Heidi Crowe, Contract Beds Tom Curran, Truck Driver Ginger Faber, Substance Abuse Counselor Patricia Good, Food Service Supervisor Linda Hamblin, Food Service Supervisor Larry Hendrickson, Food Bank Carl Henn, CO Linda Jess Terrance Johnson, CO Daniel J. Johnston, Maintenance Anthony Kulaski, CO Kimberly Malcomb, CO John Martelli, CO Patrick McNair, CO Dawn Meagher, CO Monique Miller, Admin. Support CD/SOP Daniel Moses, Food Service Supervisor Jean Sanderson, Food Service Supervisor Cheryl Scown, CO

Lorri Sinerius-Lowery, CO Cynthia Smith, CO Jeffery Smith, CO Ronnie Williams, CO Glen Wyant, CO-IPS

Lewis Young, CO

Larry Yuhas, Ranch Foreman

POST Certificates Issued May 22, 2003

For Department of Corrections Personnel:

Detention/Corrections Basic	69
Detention/Corrections Intermediate	18
Detention/Corrections Advanced	7
Detention/Corrections Supervisory	4
Detention/Corrections Command	1
Detention/Corrections Administrative	1
New Instructor Certificates	8
Instructor Renewal Certificates	7

Juvenile Division produces its own "movie"

The Juvenile Services Division has produced a video that describes its functions, including secure care, transition and parole services. The 35-minute video was produced by B&B Video Productions. If you want to see the video, call the division at (406) 444-0851.

DOC employees are running away!

At least 20 teams composed of more than 150 Department of Corrections employees from across Montana are participating in the State of Montana Health Benefits Bureau's "Spring Fitness Walk Across Montana."

With complimentary pedometers, participants are attempting to collectively accrue enough miles in eight weeks to boast of having walked across Montana, 677 miles – the distance from Lookout Pass to Baker. As of June 27, state employees had walked 543,467 miles. DOC teams walked a collective 23,204 miles in the first five weeks of the competition.

As of June 27, MSP had three of the state's top teams: *We've Got It* (Peggy Tetschner, Dan Johnston, John Bolton, John McNeal, John Monaco, Dusty Skocilich, Carl Nelson, Amy Grinold and Jack Mehrens) in first place with 4,294 miles; *Walk U Ups* (Bill Anderson, Jerry Arneson, Tom Demarois, Ray Hoffenbacker, Pat Huber, Vern McDonald, Tim Mueller, Dennis Reiss and Michelle Reiss) in second place with 4,109 miles; and the *Turkey Trotters* (Jon Stevenson and others unnamed) with 2,875 miles. *The Eager* from Pine Hills Correctional Facility in Pine Hills (new team, names not listed) had accrued 2,358 miles.

Top DOC individual walkers as of June 17 included MSP's John McNeal with 681 miles, Carl Nelson with 681 miles, and Vern McDonald with 678; Rick Nees from Pine Hills with 677, and Dan Johnston from MSP with 607 miles.

Mileage totals for other teams will continue to be moving targets until the Spring Fitness Program ends in July. Therefore, final scores will be included in the next *Correctional Signpost* and on the DOC website at www.cor.state.mt.us.

THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS MISSION

The Department of Corrections is dedicated to public safety and trust by holding adult and juvenile offenders accountable for their actions against victims through custody, supervision, treatment, work, restitution and skill development.

_____copies of this public document were published at a cost of ____cents per copy, which is based on a total estimated cost of \$___. The *Signpost* is printed by Montana Correctional Enterprises, which provides vocational education training for inmates.

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS 1539 11th Avenue PO Box 201301 Helena MT 59620-1301

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